

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

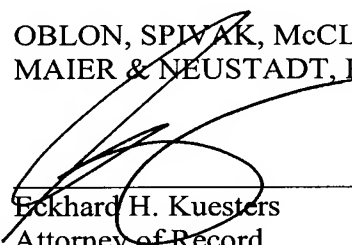
Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, it is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 and 18 are pending in this application. Claims 16-17 are canceled by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

Consequently, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
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